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## **Construction at Syphax**

ast November, after over 3 1/2 years of community planning, the bureaucratic process and forced delays, Manna, Inc., DC's leading developer of affordable homeownership housing, began partial demolition of the Syphax School; the parts of the school being demolished include the 1953 wing and part of the 1941 addition. Demolition is projected for substantial completion by the end of January. Shortly thereafter, land development will begin with the installation of utilities and interior roads and parking areas. Then, in the spring construction will begin on the first phase of eight townhouses facing N Street, SW, between South Capitol St. and Half Street, SW. SWNA was the original catalyst for the redevelopment of the school site and led a community planning process for two years before Manna became involved. From the beginning the overwhelming majority of

community leaders and organizations, elected leaders, and city government officials have supported the adaptive reuse of the school and its grounds for affordable homeownership housing

affordable homeownership housing.

The townhouses will be two-story plans and will feature three bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths, with optional second floor plans for 3 bedrooms with 2 1/2 baths or twin master bedrooms with 2 1/2 baths. The first group of townhouses is priced from \$117,000 to \$124,400. The townhouses are being built as affordable housing for those families meeting various income guidelines.

meeting various income guidelines.
When completed, Syphax Village will contain 29 new townhouse condominiums and 12 loft-style condominiums in the historic school building. Offstreet parking will be provided for all homes. For information, contact Asaki Johnson at Manna, 202.832.1845.



Architectural rendering of MANNA houses

## Ward 6

As of January 1, 2002 most of Southwest became part of Ward 6. Resdidents of SW are still in ANC 2D since the ANC redistricting has not been voted on by the council. The Chief of Staff for Sharon Ambrose who is now our councilwoman, is Marge Francese a resident of SW.

## Waterfront Mall Update

"The Southwester" wants to keep the residents of SW informed of happenings in their community. Art Mosley of the Kaempfer Company was very helpful in explaining this particular project.

He stated that "the phasing of the Waterfront redevelopment will depend on the leasing activity. If we lease one of the 12 story towers first, then that occupancy can take place without demolition. When we lease a large space in the center portion of the project, we will proceed

## "Orange Hats"

by Tracey Hooks.

hrough the leadership of Bobbie McMahan and myself, Greenleaf Extension recently organized the Orange Hats to help improve the quality of life in Southwest. The Housing Authority Police and the Metropolitan Police will be walking with us.

Those in Southwest who wish to join us please do. Days to walk will be decided at the Police Service Area (PSA) 110 Community Police meeting. Thursday, January 17, 2002 at 7 pm at King Greenleaf Recreation Center. This meeting is hosted by Greenleaf Extension Council. If you need additional information, please contact me at my office 202-724-2152 or fax me at 202-724-2151.

with the demolition of the swath for the 4th Street extension at that time.

The City is responsible for the extension of 4th Street through the Park Service land to the north of Waterfront. We do not expect any problems with that portion of the road extension."

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## **SWNA Meeting**

he following issues are to be addressed at the Southwest SWNA Meeting on Monday, January 28 at 7:30 pm

1. Would City Government Officials reconsider the pros & cons for having a pedestrians walkthrough vs. 4th St. cutthrough?

2. What has and what will the City Government, the Kaempfer Company and Forest City Enterprises do to assist Waterside Mall merchants to relocate?

3. What has and what will the City, the Kaempfer Company and the Forest City Enterprises do to find a tenant or tenants that will ensure that the Waterside Mall renovation can start in 2003? After renovation has begun, what will be done to continue the effort?

Other questions will be taken from the floor. Councilmembers Harold Brazil and Sharon Ambrose, as well as Art Mosley of the Kaempfer Co. will be present. Other speakers are expected.

Many SW residents do not feel confi-

dent that the DC Government officials have given them a fair opportunity to participate in deciding the outcome of this decision.

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#### **Greenleaf Extension Gets Award**

n December 18th, a plaque was awarded to the Greenleaf Extension Resident Council. It is inscribed "in appreciation for your committed service and dedication - 1998-It was given to Tracey Hooks, Wanda White, Eleanora Wood & Dobres Terrell.

## **DC** Residents to **Get More College**

hanges are before the Senate that will expand eligibility to the yearold DC College Access Act. Currently, the program lets students attend public colleges in all of the states at in-state tuitions rates. The legislation would apply to students who graduate & defer college by more than three years. In addition to the state schools, all of the historically black private colleges (not just ones located near DC) and universities will be added as participating institutions.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-MD) and Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (R-VA) all are original sponsors of the scholarship program.

#### The Southwest **Scholarship Committee**

he Scholarship Committee is gearing up for 2002. Soon letters will be stuffed & mailed asking for donations for our college students. Later in the spring, applications will be available at the library. If you are interested in helping, call Barbara Murray at

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## Southwest Community Calendar

Through February, 2002

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

JAN. 24 THURS. NARFE luncheon at Channel Inn at noon

SWNA mtg., Public meeting of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. Re-opening 4th St. vs. Pedestrian walkway JAN. 28 MON.

FEB. 2 SAT. PSA 110 Walkathon with police, 11 am - 240 M St. S.W.

FEB. 5 TUES. Citizens Advisory Council, Police Hdqtrs, 7:00 pm

FEB. 11 MON. Advisory Neighborhood Commission (will remain ANC2D for a year), 7 pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church

FEB. 20 WED Regular meeting AARP 4751, noon, St. Matthew's Church,

FEB. 20 WED Regular meeting YATF, 7:00 pm

FEB. 21 THURS. Chamber music, 7:30 pm St. Augustine's Church, 6th &

Maine St.

FEB. 21 THURS. PSA - Commty Mtg. 110 place & time to be determined FEB. 25 MON. Public meeting of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

FEB. 28 THURS. NAARFE mtg. 7:30 pm, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,

3rd & M St. S.W.

#### WEEKLY & BIWEEKLY MEETINGS

Komen Toastmasters, 10 am First & Third Sat., SW Branch Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W.

Fil-Am Toastmasters, 6:45 pm Second and Fourth Wed., SW Branch Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W.

School Street Toastmasters, noon, every Tuesday, 400 Virginia Ave. S.W.,

S.W. Kiwanis, Every Monday, 6:30 -7:30 pm, SE University, 6th and I (Eye) St. S. W.

YATF, 7:00 pm, Second Wed., SWNA office

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed. Feb. 13 to C.W. Hargrave 554-8284.





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## **SWNA Looking** For Candidates For **March Election**

ew Officers and Members of the Board of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly will be elected in open elections Saturday Mar. 16 at Waterside Mall, 401 M

Any resident of Near Southwest (Zip Code 20024) age 18 and up is eligible to vote and to be elected. Write-ins are allowed. To be on the printed ballot a person must be suggested by the nominating committee or nominated from the floor at the Mon. Feb. 27 SWNA meeting.

Call in your suggestions to the nominating committee by contacting Carole Early 202/488-3355),Bobbie McMahan at 488-7998, or Pat Pressley (at the Collaborative - 202/488-

At the March 23 election everyone in Southwest can vote for officers - (president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer).

Eleven other members of the Board are elected by their own neighbors who live in each of the four smaller districts, shown on this map.

Dist. 1 N. of M St. & W. of 4th Dist. 2 N. of M St. & E. of 4th Dist. 3 S.of M St. & W. of Del. Ave. Dist. 4 S. of M St. & E. of Del. Ave.

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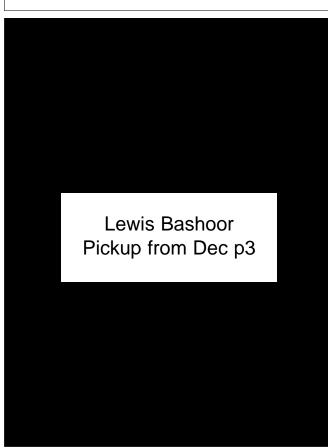




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Tracey Hooks passing out gifts.

## **Greenleaf Extension 'Xmas Party**

By Carole Early & Naomi Monk

t "Santa's Workshop" were 3 adults, Tracey, Wanda C. White & Carole Early; along with Deanna White (10 years



That looks yummy!

old) & their assistants. They were Mary Cozeman (8 years old), Jericho & Chervl L. Long (ages needed) & Francois White (6 years old).

On December 21st at about 6:30 pm, Santa arrived for the children (4-12) of Greenleaf Extension. Their dinner party was at St. Matthew's Church. Thanks to Dale MacIver for preparing the flyer, to Tracey Hooks who did everything else & her crew of Santa's helpers who helped to wrap about 250 donated gifts at the

Greenleaf Extension Office at 205 L St., SW. At "Santa's Work-

shop" (prior to the party) were 3 adults, Tracey, Wanda C. White & Carole Early; along with Deanna White (10 years

old) & their assistants. They were Mary Cozeman (8 years old), Jericho & Cheryl L. Long (ages needed) & Francois White (6 years old). All were busy wrapping

Special thanks to Chanda (Tudi) McMahan for her special role & for her photos. Jack Matthews took movie pictures throughout the evening. Delores Swetzer was a great kitchen helper & Wanda Miller was in-charge of balloon making. Wanda, Tracey Hooks & Chanda McMahan passed out the gifts.

## Annual Parade of Boats

By Margaret Feldman

ifty decorated boats sailed in our Washington Channel the evening of December 8 in the Thirteenth Annual Parade of Boats, Boats came from fourteen marina and yacht clubs including the Gang Plank Marina, James Creek Marina and the Capital Yacht Club.

First prize was awarded to Laura Stanforth's "Clandestine " of the Capital Yacht Club for best decorated boat. Second prize was awarded Steve Kincheloe's "Cheryl Ann" from Tantallon Club, and third to Linda Purdy's "Illusion" from Capital Yacht Club. In all, fourteen prizes were awarded, including the Door Prize of a weekend for two at Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel which was awarded to Eric Slaughter's "Finished Business." Prizes were supplied by Loews L'Enfant Hotel, Odyssey and Spirit cruises, Phillips, Zanzibar and Channel Inn, Arena Stage and overnights at Gangplank Marina.

The Festival of Lights, decorated boats, was started 13 years ago by the Waterfront Association and this developed into the Parade 8 or 9 years ago.

I was invited to ride on Finished Business and joined a jolly group. There I was, up on the bridge, watching Santa Claus ilot the vessel down the Channel to join the line of boats coming up the Potomac. A voice over the loud speaker informed us to fall into line behind "Moon River" which was just ahead of two sailboats. Of course it was hard to determine the names of boats since it was dark as well as raining. We waited out in the Anacostia River and finally

identified "Moon River" so we could join the line of beautifully lighted boats. The vessels were a pleasure to see with reindeers, colored lights, and rims of lighted icicles.

When we passed the judges who were assembled in the Police Tower, Eric Slaugh-ter moved to the pilot's seat while our Santa Claus moved to the front deck where he joined a group of children carrying large candy canes and all sang Jingle Bells.

Santa of course sang out his famous "Ho, Ho, Ho" and waved. Another Santa on the tower waved back at us and all other vessels as they passed. Dockside observers watched from shore and promenade as well as from windows in Riverside, Harbor Square, and Tiber Island.

Look for this wonderful event next year and join the observers to cheer this beautiful sight on our Channel. We hope there will be no rain.

#### The YATF Celebration-Benefit "A Walk Down Memory Lane"

n April 21, 2002 the Youth Activities Task Force of SWNA will celebrate its 20th year of commitment to the youth of southwest. A Celebration-Benefit will be held in the Old Vat Room of the Arena Stage from 3:00 - 6:00 pm. The Benefit Committee is completing plans for honoring YATF founders, youth who have benefited, and for entertainment and food. Look for more information in the next issue of the Southwester! And Do SAVE the DATE!

## **Update on Greenleaf Rec Center**

By Rick Bardach

₹ tatus Report on DC Recreation's plans to build a new Recreation Center at King-Greenleaf. On December 18, 2001, a meeting was held to present to some community members the first draft of the architectural proposal to build a new Recreation Center on the grounds of the King-Greenleaf Recreation property located on First Street Southwest between M St., Canal & Delaware Avenues. The meeting was led by Jair Lynch, of the Lynch-Alpha Joint Venture Group (the developers) and Sandra Hill of DC Recreation Dept. The architectural team from Devrouax & Purnell, lead by Marc Doswell made the presentation. (Note: Project Director Keith Madigan was

also present.)

The first draft shows a building that perhaps can be described as a rectangular multipurpose room (large enough to have a regulation basketball court with bleachers) surrounded partially by a half-moon shaped area that would house several classroom sized rooms and various support areas, like bathroom/shower facilities, an

office/reception area, a storage area & utilities infrastructure. The total authorized for this project is \$4.4 million dollars.

Jair Lynch explained the process as follows: We are now in the schematic design phase, which will be followed by the detailed design development phase. He believes it is realistic to predict construction will begin in early summer of 2002 and dedication and opening of the facility in the Spring of 2003.

It is my judgment that all of those community members present at the meeting were very pleased with the initial proposal. Of course there were many comments and suggestions which were eagerly received by the development team. They stated that they plan to return for the next community meeting in February. We the community advocates will need to work to get a large turnout at this meeting to assure the overall community's needs and wants are fully considered and hopefully met to the maximum degree possible. For additional information, you can call called Mr. Bardach at 202-554-8282 or e-mail him at swfc@bellatlantic.net.



#### WPA and NASA Mural in MAC Center

**T**he Corcoran's Washington Project for the Arts has been busy painting a mural taken from the images of outer space from the Hubble telescope. It will be installed outside of Millennium Arts Center, 65 I St., SW in April. It will be on view inside of the MAC while it is drying from now until the installation. This is an exciting bridge between art and science.

#### SW Collaborative

by Ms. Patricia Pressley, SWWR

n September 1996, the South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative (South Washington Collaborative or SWWR) was established to address the problem of child abuse and neglect in the Southeast/Southwest area of the District of Columbia. SWWR was formed through the funding support of the DC Child and Family Service Agency.

The South Washington Collaborative is a neighborhood-based effort with a mission to partner with community-based organizations, churches, schools, public housing communities, businesses, civic groups and residents in an innovative and non-traditional approach to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the area and to eradicate the social ills that effect our families and communities. We are committed to building healthy families and thriving communities by supporting and promoting physical, spiritual and economic growth and stability of our children, youth and families. Our rationale centers on the belief that the community where a family lives can offer effective, preventive services not provided by other agencies.

Samuel Tramel is the Executive Director - For further, please call 202/488-SWWR(7997) or fax 202/488-7441. ■

## Redistricting

Redistricting of all of the ANCs will be decided in February when the Council takes it up.

When Ward boundaries change it can affect ANC boundaries. We are in Ward 6 but ANC 2D will not change boundaries until next year.

The area south of the National Mall has been ANC 2D for about 25 years. But as a result of ward redistricting adopted in June, the Southwest neighborhood has been split between Wards 2 and 6. The ANC redistricting proposal would have SW divided among 3 ANCs.

In a letter from Councilmember Phil Mendelson, he states that he has been asked "by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, the ward Councilmember (Mrs. Ambrose), ANC 2D, and the Ward 6 ANC redistricting task force to keep Southwest intact in one ANC."

"When Southwest residents are concerned about SW issues, they would have to go to Shaw or Logan Circle and argue their case, & they would do so before a commission that represents virtually no on living in Southwest.

People are encouraged to write to the following councilmembers as soon as possible

#### Phil Mendelson:

pmendelson@dccouncil.Washington.dc.us Linda Cropp:

lcropp@dccouncil.Washington.dc.us Sharon Ambrose:

Sambrose@dccouncil.Washington.dc.us Harold Brazil:

Hbrazil@dccouncil.Washington,dc.us **David Catania**:

Dcatania@dcouncil.Washington.dc.us
Carol Schwartz:

Schwartzc@dccouncil.Washington.dc.us

## **Profile of C.W. Hargrave**

By Maurice Boyd

Hargrave was born the son of a Presbyterian minister and his
• mother was a teacher. He is still active in the church. He goes to Westminster at 4th & I St.s.

He is best known in our community as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) for district 2D-02. He was recently re-elected after being out of office for a short time, and will serve until December, 2002. His goal is to improve the channel of information between the city and its residents, and to exert an influence in zoning and liquor license matters

C.W. has been a SW resident since 1962.. He also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the 1st District MPD Citizens Advisory Council. As a longtime member of Capitol Park IV Condominium, he serves on the Security Committee, and has also



C.W. Hargrave

served on the CP IV Board. And if that weren't enough, he is Calendar editor for *The Southwester* .

He was born in Dandridge, near Knoxville, TN. He was educated in segregated schools, then Johnson C. Smith

College in Charlottsville. His academic interests were physical sciences, with a major in chemistry. Following that, he was

off to earn a master's in radiochemistry at Washington University in St. Louis.

In 1952 he was drafted into the Army to serve in the Health Physics Unit in Edgewood, MD. Upon discharge he gained employment with the Navy Medical Research Unit in Bethesda as a chemist-physicist.

He transferred to Oak Ridge, TN with the Atomic Energy Commission - Tech. Information and finished his work career with NASA in 1989.

His wife, Iona, also retired, is active in Delta Sigma Theta sorority and is a UDC graduate.

Their many interests include River Park Friends, the Boys & Girls Club, Kennedy Center Theater series and travel in American cities. Their favorites are: San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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## **About Southeastern University**

By Susan Fischer

A Dynamic, Innovative, Affordable Institution of Higher Learning in the Heart of Southwest DC

hen Charlene Drew Jarvis, a celebrated scientist and prominent civic activist became President of Southeastern University in 1996, both the image and substance of the University began to change dramatically. An external indication of her determination to put Southeastern "on the map" was the change in the name of Waterfront Metro Station to reflect the presence of the university, but substantive administrative and program changes were taking place at the same time, and continue to take place, ensuring that Southeast-ern is not just a name on the map but a very desirable destination.

One of the features that makes Southeastern University stand out on the higher education map is its dynamic mix of career-oriented degree programs. Fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Southeastern offers two and four-year undergraduate degrees (Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees respectively) in fields such as Computer Science, Information Systems Management, Health Service Administration, Accounting, Banking, and Market-ing, and, on the graduate level, the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science (in Computer Science and Information Systems Management), and Master of Public Administration degrees. New programs relevant to today's workplace are added when, in the words of Dr. Jarvis, "we see a need and we address it." Two examples are the new Associate's Degree in Non-Profit Management and a two-year program in Early Childhood Development being developed by the University in partnership with the YMCA and the Department of Labor. In addition to degree programs, Southeastern offers industry certification programs in various aspects of computer programming and one-day professional training seminars. Details on all these programs and more can be found on the University's excellent website, ww.seu.edu, designed and maintained by students in Southeastern's Computer Science programs.

Another outstanding feature of Southeastern is its innovative scheduling approach, which enables working adults to earn their desired degrees in the shortest possible amount of time. Many classes are offered in the evenings and on weekends during the four "quadmesters" (equivalent to a semester in terms of credit hours earned), made possible by SEU's year-round scheduling. Most of South-eastern's 1,000 culturally diverse students—nearly double the enrollment of five years ago—are working full or parttime

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of

Continued on page 7

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#### **Amidon PTA**

he Amidon PTA Executive Board consists of five members: Dave DeJesus, President; James Jones, 1st VP; Muriel Anderson, 2nd VP; Seledia Shephard, Secretary and Debra Frigon, Treasurer.

We recently held a Holiday Raffle to raise much needed funds to be used for PTA projects that benefit the school and students. We sold \$1.00 tickets to Amidon families, friends and businesses. We raised nearly \$700 in ticket sales.

The Gand Prize winner would receive \$100; the person selling the winning ticket would get \$25, and the person selling the most tickets would receive a \$25 prize. So we had winners all around.

The Grand Prize winner was announced on December 21st, in time for the Christmas Holidays; Mr. Jimie Castleberry, of Germantown, MD. His winning ticket was sold by Michael Davenport, a second grade student at Amidon Elementary School. The person selling the most tickets was Ms. Debra Frigon, a resident of Southwest Washington, and a PTA Board member. Ms. Frigon sold more than 200 tickets.

Exciting things have been going on at the school. On Saturday, December 22nd, Amidon Elementary and Amidon PTA, Inc. hosted The District of Columbia Firefighters Association's special Christmas Party to honor forty-four specially selected elementary school students of Ward 2 who are excelling in their stud-

Each student that was honored received a brand new 26 inch bicycle and helment. The presentation of awards was given by Ray Sneed, President of the Firefighters Association, Santa Claus and Dave DeJesus, Amidon PTA President. There were four students honored from Amidon).

Students were treated to a great party, which included a ventriloquist, a former member of The Harlem Globetrotters, a magician, and Santa Claus. Each year the party moves to another ward.



he tenants in the building which is located on 4th St. that use to house the SW Wax Museum (it is across from the Police Station) are all vacating the building. The cleaners has already moved & the sign in the window indicates that the building is being renovated. The Chinese Restaurant has moved to 7th St. (but still delivers here) and Gold's Gym will be moving to the Design Center at the Federal Center Metro stop.

They plan to move on March 1, 2002.
Telephone calls to the leasing company,
Phillips Company have gone unanswered.

Sharon Ambrose's office confirmed that the National Democratic Club is going to build a building on 4th St., next to the police station.

#### **Unconfirmed Rumor**

esidents of Capital Park have heard talk about a building being constructed behind 800-4th St. Apartment Building. We will let you all know about this as soon as we have the information. If anyone knows about this, call the Southwester office at 202/554-8560.

#### The BEES for ATLAS

he BEES (Building Environmental Education Solutions) program is for youths 14 to 16. It is under the Dept. of Employment Services, Office of Youth Programs and is sponsored by the Petro Group, Inc. It meets Monday -Friday from 3:30 - 5:30 in loaned space at Southeastern University, 501-6th St., SW

The following information is needed to register with the above department: Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Proof of DC Residence, income verification - pay stub. For further information call 202/724-7300.



State Farm Insurance Co. presenting check

One of the recepients with bike



3rd St. Houses decorated for 'Xmas.

#### Concerned Southwest Parents

By Bobbie McMahan & Pat Pressley

arents please take time to talk to your child's/children's teacher(s). The results of all test scores should be discussed or explained to parents. Individual Education Plan or I.E.P.(evaluation of kids who have special needs) meetings determined what special needs are to be met for your child in school. You should plan to visit your child's classroom for 1 hour weekly or at least once monthly. The PTA has regular monthly meetings. Please plan to attend these meetings and you will find out what is happening at your child's school.

## **Youth Symposium -**

All Day Educational Workshop for Youth

Topics:

Health & Nutrition, Sexuality Issues, College, General Education, Conflict Resolution & Anger Management Location:

At the Greenleaf Rec Center, 201 N St., SW Time & Date:

Sat., March 2, 2002 10:00 am-4:00 pm Ages:

12 - 18 yrs. of age

Refreshments & lunch served

Contact Fred Swan 202/554-1517 or Tracey Hooks, SWWR Collabortive Cochair Program Committee 202/488-7997.

#### SEU

Continued from page 6

SEU is the very competitive tuition rates it offers its students—as low as in-state rates at the University of Maryland/College Park, for example. This is an amazing feat for a small, private university and reflects the depth of the commitment expressed by Dr. Jarvis to "serve as many people as we possibly can." Critically important to the realization of this goal, in the absence of an endowment, are fund-raising activities like the one announced on page. [insert page #] of this edition of The Southwester. Proceeds

from this event, like those of a highly successful event last October, will be used for scholarships. Future events are planned to raise money for other purposes as well, including interior renovation of the University's building on I Street. Now that the administrative turnaround that Dr. Jarvis envisioned when she assumed the presidency of SEU has been accomplished, there will be increasing focus on fund-raising efforts to ensure that the University's mission of "educating technology, business and government leaders for the region and the world" will continue to be carried out right here in Southwest Washington, while keeping SEU on the map of the world.

#### NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH!

## Do your steps, bricks or patio look dirty?

Hot Shot Pressure Washing
CAN eliminate the mold and black algae from
the surface for as little as \$50.00

#### What we do:

- Power Wash your correte, brick or wood surfaces to remove black algae, mold, mildew
   6 dirt and restore natural color.
- For an additional charge Hot Shot can seal your surface to help preserve and protect it.
   BEFORE AFTER





What is Black Algae?

Black algae is an aggravating strain of algae that is difficult to get rid of because its roots are strong and it has a protective layer on top that can protect it from many chemicals. In addition to making your home or business look drity, black algae has some health risk factors. Obviously, many people are allergic to algae and molds, but they are also very slippery and can cause pedestrians to fall on algae-covered well-ways. Although the growth of algae is not entirely preventable, it can be kept at bay by regular chemical/pressure cleaning.

Call today 301.297.9111 or 1.877.490.WASH (9274)

## BEN VEREEN at FORD'S THEATRE: I'm Not Rappaport

Ben Vereen will perform the role of Midge in Herb Gardner's Tony Award-winning play. Vereen joins

Judd Hirsch, who will reprise his Tony Award-winning role as Nat in Ford's Theatre's special three and one-half week run from January 23-February 17, 2002.

Vereen, who tackles musical, comedic and dramatic roles, most recently appeared on Broadway, where he starred as "The Ghost of Christmas Present" in A Christmas Carol. Vereen's repertoire includes numerous acclaimed roles, such as the unforgettable character, "Chicken George," in the Emmy Award-winning television series, "Roots."

I'm Not Rappaport, a delightful comedy set in a secluded area in New York's

Central Park in the fall of 1982, follows two octogenarians as they fight retirement. Nat (Hirsch) is a lifelong radical, who battles injustice, real or imagined. His partner, Midge (Vereen), is an apartment superintendent who hides in the park to avoid his tenants, who want him to retire.

Tony Award-winning director Daniel Sullivan will direct Ford's Theatre's production of *I'm Not Rappaport*.

#### **ARENA BLUES**

Wallace Babington

ust try to keep your feet from tapping along with the music during any song belted out during Arena's current production, "Blues in the Night." It can't be done. Nor can you help being captivated, enthralled and swept away by the three extremely talented women singing their broken hearts out. Emotionally wrenching blues numbers, a great combo, three women with voices that transform lyrics from words to emotional experiences that cross all racial, gender and age barriers. Ms. Mitchell's singing two double-entendre blues songs, "Kitchen Man" and "Take Me For a Buggy Ride", are well worth that proverbial price of admission. What more could you ask for?

Well, you might ask for some plot, story line, and character development; something to hang the songs together with some sort of dramatic movement. The theater program gives titles to the three women: Woman of the World, Girl with a Date and Lady from the Road. But there is no indication in the actual presentation on stage that these titles have any relevance whatsoever to the songs. What we have here is a

revue, a cabaret act—and nothing more. This is a program of songs that could just as easily be presented in a small nightclub, cabaret or dinner theater. It's more entertaining and better presented than most such revues, but it is nonetheless only a music program.

I have failed to mention the one male performer—mainly because he's forgettable. He is given a few songs and a couple of dances; and he serves as a foil for the women from time to time. But his presence is pointless.

It seems that Arena Stage could make a more significant contribution than this to African American theater in Washington. There are any number of gifted and talented black actors in the Washington area who perform regularly on local stages. Arena could give encouragement and promotion to these actors; and the theater's resources would be put to better use than they are when package revues are simply brought in and staged.

So if you want an evening of good music, blues that soar and grab you by the heart, lovely women who give their all for your entertainment, then "Blues in the Night" is the show to see and hear.

Blues in the Night at Arena's Kreeger Theatre til Feb. 3rd

